



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 11/10/2008

GAIN Report Number: TH8179

Thailand

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Thai Government Monitoring Melamine in Feed 2008

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Report Highlights:

The Department of Livestock Development (DLD) has banned the use of melamine in feed since August 2007 and actively monitors feed and feed component imports for melamine contamination. More recently, DLD expanded their surveillance to test domestically produced dairy and poultry products for melamine but has yet to find any melamine use in the domestic feed and livestock industry.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

The recent detection of melamine in Chinese dairy products and animal feed has raised Thai consumer concern about the safety of meat and egg products. According to the Thai Bureau of Livestock Standards and Certification office in the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), DLD has been monitoring imported feed for melamine contamination for over a year. On August 3, 2007, DLD banned the importation, production, and sale of all kinds of feed and feed ingredients containing melamine substances. A copy of this regulation is provided in Appendix I. DLD has recently proposed a new notification regarding the banning of analogs or derivatives of melamine. DLD anticipates that this notification may be approved by the end of November.

On November 4, 2008, the Deputy Ministry of Agriculture and Director General of DLD released a statement to media regarding the preventive measures the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives have taken to prevent against melamine-tainted feed in Thailand. These measures include the following:

- 1) DLD imposed a notification on August 3, 2007, banning the importation, production, and sales of all kinds of feed and feed ingredients contaminated with melamine substances. The notification also stated any imported feed, feed concentrates, dairy products for animals, protein additives, and feed ingredients from a country where melamine contamination has been an issue, i.e. China, must be accompanied by official certification that the product is melamine-free.

Failure to comply with this regulation (importing, producing, and selling products contaminated with melamine) is subject to penalties. Producers or importers of melamine-contaminated products will be charged with producing or importing feed inappropriate for feed use, which carries a penalty of one year in jail and/or a fine up to 10,000 baht (\$290). Producing or importing feed not consistent with the registered formula carries a penalty of 1-5 years in jail and/or a fine of 10,000-50,000 baht (\$290-\$1,450). The seller of melamine-contaminated products could face two charges; producing or importing feed inappropriate for feed use (penalty of one year in jail and/or a fine up to 10,000 baht (\$290)) and selling feed alienated from registered formula (penalty of 6 months to 2 years in jail and/or a fine of 5,000-20,000 baht (\$145-\$580)).

- 2) Any importer of feed and feed ingredients must request an import permit from the Bureau of Livestock Standard and Certification under DLD, and provide DLD with documentation including certificate of origin and a list of his/her customers. Upon arrival, the DLD port official will inspect the shipped product and collect a sample for a melamine test in the case that the product is corn protein, wheat protein, soybean protein, or animal protein such as fish meal and dairy products.
- 3) From 2007 until October 2008, DLD collected and tested 854 samples of imported plant protein products, animal protein products, and dairy products. Ten of samples tested positive for melamine contamination resulting in 608 tons of imported feed products being rejected. The rejected shipments include:
 - a. In 2007, eight samples were found to be contaminated with melamine, i.e., three samples of Chinese origin squid liver powder, 4 samples of Korean origin squid liver powder, and one sample of Singapore origin wheat flour. 482 tons of these shipped products refused entry into Thailand.

- b. In 2008, two samples of Korean origin squid liver powder were found to be contaminated with melamine and 126 tons of the product refused entry.

Additionally, DLD collects samples of fish meal from all domestic producers for a melamine testing but have yet to detect melamine in domestic produced fish meal. Tests were also negative for 91 samples of raw milk collected from local dairy farms and milk processing plants from September-October, 2008. In addition, DLD continues to monitor the safety of meat and eggs through random sampling. DLD applies the same tolerance level to be considered melamine-free as the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is 1.0 ppm for raw milk and milk powder, and 2.5 ppm for other products.

Appendix I

**The Department of Livestock's Notification
Re: Prohibition of Importation, Production, and Sale of Complete Feed and Feed
Ingredients Contaminated with Melamine Substance
(Unofficial Translation)**

Since there was a report of damages affected to farmers in the United States and other countries which were caused by the utilization of feed contaminated with Melamine substances, the department, by the authority as described in Section 32 (2) in Feed Quality Control Act B.E. 2525 (1982), in order to prevent damages to Thai farmers, proclaims that:

1. Prohibit the importation, production, and sale of all kinds of complete feed and feed ingredients which are contaminated with Melamine substances.
2. Any imports of complete feed, feed concentrates, dairy products for animals, protein additives, and feed ingredients from the country where Melamine contamination was found, must be accompanied by an official certification of free-Melamine.

The notification is effective immediately.

Announced on August 3, 2007

Mr. Pirom Srichan
Director General

End of Report.